

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178659

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TAGS: NATO, MPOL, DPC

SUBJECT: SPRING REVIEW 1976

REF: USNATO 3936

1. WE AGREE THAT AN EXPANDED, REGIONALLY-ORIENTED SPRING
REVIEW WOULD PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN EXTENDING THE
OVERALL DEFENSE PLANNING MECHANISM TO ENCOURAGE ACCELERATED
ACTION ON NATO'S LONGER TERM QTE COOPERATIVE TASK UNQTE.
AS CURRENTLY CONSTITUTED, THE DEFENSE PLANNING MECHANISM
CONSISTS OF THE NATO DEFENSE PLANNING CYCLE FOR FORCE
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PLANNING AND A MULTITUDE OF INDEPENDENTLY-TIMED PLANNING

CYCLES FOR SUPPORTING PROGRAMS. ADDITION OF A REGIONALLY-ORIENTED SPRING REVIEW, INCLUDING REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF SUPPORTING PROGRAMS ON REGIONAL CAPABILITIES SHOULD BE USEFUL IN INTEGRATING NATO DEFENSE EFFORTS AS WELL AS IN EMPHASIZING COOPERATION.

2. PRINCIPAL INITIAL VALUE OF SPRING REVIEW AS DESCRIBED BY MISSION WOULD BE THAT OF A STOCKTAKING OF REGIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, AS SUPPORTED BY NATIONAL AND NATO PROGRAMS. OUT OF THIS STOCKTAKING, SUCH INITIATIVES AS SEEN FEASIBLE COULD BE PREPARED FOR MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY IN ALL CASES FOR MINISTERIAL

DECISION AT THE CORRESPONDING SPRING MEETING, SINCE DETAILS DO NOT NECESSARILY FALL IN LINE QUICKLY.

3. WE WOULD NOT WANT SPRING REVIEW TO RESULT IN MERELY A CATALOGUE OF REGIONAL DEFICIENCIES AND CORRESPONDING LIST OF NATO FORCE AND WEAPONS REQUIREMENTS. RESULT DESIRED, AS MISSION POINTS OUT, IS TOTAL STOCKTAKING WHICH PERMITS IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS IN WHICH ADDITIONAL COOPERATION IS POLITICALLY FEASIBLE AND MILITARILY COST-EFFECTIVE. WE FEEL REVIEW SHOULD GO BEYOND HUMPHREY'S STATEMENT (USNATO 3261) THAT SPRING REVIEW MUST RESULT IN CONCRETE PLANNING TARGETS, NATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS; REVIEW SHOULD CONSIDER WHERE NATO DEFENSE STANDS OVERALL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE REDIRECTION OF NATO'S SUPPORTING PROGRAMS SUCH AS INFRASTRUCTURE WHEN NEEDED FOR BEST USE OF RESOURCES.

4. AS A MATTER OF TACTICS, MISSION MAY WISH AT 3L JULY EWG MEETING TO PRESENT PROPOSAL DESCRIBED REFTTEL FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION, WITH FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION IN SEPTEMBER, TO ALLOW TIME FOR ITS CONSIDERATION IN CAPITALS.

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